

UNDER "Camera Craft" are reproduced two photographs by Mr. W. G. Harvey, Mackay (N.Q.), representing the nests of the White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater and the Pied Caterpillar-eater. The Messrs. Harvey Brothers are adepts at nature studies with their camera, and it is hoped that more of their excellent pictures will follow these.—A. J. CAMPBELL.

* * *

Nest of *Eurostopodus guttatus* (Spotted Nightjar).—The accompanying photograph was taken whilst on a trip around the Boinka-Linga district (on the Ouyen-Pinaroo line). Several Spotted Nightjars (*Eurostopodus guttatus*) were seen during our stay, but it was not until towards the end of our trip that we were successful in locating the nesting-site. On approaching the vicinity of the nest the bird was seen to rise from the ground, and one of the party, Mr. F. E. Howe, was fortunate enough to find the egg. The egg was simply placed on the ground, no attempt being made to form any depression in the ground. The photograph was taken *in situ*, no one being allowed to handle the egg until after the plate was exposed. We were formerly of the opinion that the egg would be placed on the limestone ridges, so that when the bird was sitting she would harmonize with the surrounding material, but this was not the case, as the egg was found amongst the fallen *débris* under the mallee eucalyptus.—HERBERT A. PURNELL, R.A.O.U. Geelong.

Correspondence.

GOULD'S TYPES.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

SIRS,—I do not agree with Mr. Edwin Ashby when he says "Gould would call anything within 100 miles Adelaide." Gould was far too careful to do this, and he speaks many times of the "Mallee belts" of the Murray. I am now alluding to *Gilbertornis rufogularis* (*P. rufogularis*). To strengthen my contention I would like to state that this bird puzzled my father very much, and I know he had several conversations with Gould about it, stating that he had hunted the country for many miles around Adelaide for the bird, but had never seen it, and had come to the conclusion there was some mistake; but Gould assured my father that he procured it near the township of Adelaide. I had the honour of re-discovering this species much nearer to Adelaide than Karoonda, and upon sending a specimen to Melbourne I was astonished at receiving a letter stating that my bird was the immature of *Pachycephala gilberti*, especially as I had made the skin and dissected the specimen.—Yours, &c.,

"Wetunga," Fulham (S.A.), 26/5/19.

S. A. WHITE.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

SIRS,—May I suggest that collectors during the next nesting season watch for opportunities of introducing some of our most interesting and beautiful native birds into localities more or less suitable and within reach of the larger centres of population. For instance, that gem of the saltbush country on the borders of South Australia and Victoria, the Black-backed Wren (*Malurus melanotus*), or its northern relative, the Turquoise Wren (*M. callainus*), might, one would think, be capable of being established in many places within reach of Adelaide or Melbourne. I would suggest that in the event of a clutch of fresh eggs of either of these species being found that it might be brought home with care and placed in the nest of our ordinary Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*). Of course, it will not be easy to find early enough nests of *M. cyaneus*, as the Mallee bird nests earlier; still, with perseverance it might be done. I think it more than likely that the young would be successfully reared and established in their new conditions. We must remember that only a very few workers have either time or means to allow of their visiting the haunts of some of these rarer birds, and any collector carrying out such a scheme as the above will earn the thanks not only of all bird-lovers now living, but also those of generations to come.—
Yours, &c., EDWIN ASHBY, M.B.O.U.

"Wittunga," Blackwood, S.A., 17/6/19.

To the Editors of "The Emu."

DEAR SIRS,—I have read Mr. Jas. Buckland's letter *re* Cormorants with great interest. As you know, I have done a great deal of research work in respect to these birds, and I can prove without doubt that the Cormorant is a most necessary bird to preserve the balance of nature, and it is the greatest folly to destroy these birds because they devour the imported fish. The birds are of much more consequence to Australia than the imported fish, and the angler should be satisfied with the indigenous fish of Australia, or otherwise not grumble because the Cormorant takes toll of the fish which are imported. Mr. Buckland has given a very good illustration of that which will surely happen if the Cormorant is exterminated, and I can back him up with several such instances.

Mr. Buckland asks for information in respect to birds and fish of the Coorong. I am greatly interested in the Coorong, for I am visiting the islands which are the Pelican and Swan nesting-places regularly, and keeping a very close watch upon the breeding-grounds of these birds. In carrying out this work as president of the South Australian Ornithological Association, I motor for many miles along the shores of the Coorong and traverse many miles by water in the caretaker's boat; therefore I am competent to make the following statement:—

In the old days my grandfather, the late John White, owned a station in the South-East at Avenue Range—that was in the forties—and his son (my father) travelled backwards and forwards from his home here at the Reed-beds to the station by way of the Coorong. In those days the bird-life, consisting of a great many species, were in countless thousands, and the waters of the Coorong teemed with fish. When the fishermen began to set their nets and send the fish to the Adelaide market years after this, the fishermen became obsessed by that erroneous idea that the Cormorants were taking all the fish (these birds were very plentiful then—they were to be seen in thousands), so the fishermen started slaughtering the birds, and the Government was induced by unwise counsel to put "blood-money" upon the heads of Cormorants and Pelicans. This went on for years, until the ranks of the Cormorants were so decimated that where they could once be seen in thousands there was not a bird to be seen to-day. Result: fish of all kinds have been very scarce for years past in the Coorong, and not only that, but the fishermen are suffering the loss of hundreds of pounds sterling each year by the ravages of the crabs, for these crustaceans not only attack and destroy any fish caught in the set nets, but entangle themselves in the nets by the hundreds, rendering the nets useless. Man is paying dearly for his folly, yet he learns little or nothing by it.—
Yours, &c., S. A. WHITE.

"Wetunga," Fulham (S.A.), 26/5/19.

Bird Protection.

BY H. V. EDWARDS, BEGA, N.S.W.

ALTHOUGH the latest *Bird Protection Acts*—a distinct improvement on their somewhat crude and certainly ineffective predecessors—have proved beneficial and a stronger deterrent on the reckless destruction of useful species, many valuable birds are still destroyed at times either wantonly or through ignorance. It would be a wise step, I think, if—as is done by the various Fisheries Departments—notices printed on linen were affixed on trees and in other conspicuous places containing a schedule of the birds "black-listed"—that is, which may be shot, &c., in any season, and drawing attention to the penalties which may be inflicted for the destruction of birds either absolutely protected or at least protected during their breeding season—comprising, of course, all birds not so "black-listed." The principle of appointing "honorary rangers" may be good, but few persons will, I think, be found willing to accept the office. Where a prosecution for destroying, &c., a protected bird is at the instance of, or upon information laid by, a member of the police force or other salaried official, no odium is incurred; but where steps are taken at the instance of an honorary ranger some ill-feeling may be engendered, although he carries out a duty of benefit to the whole community.